

AUDIO/VIDEO CONFERENCE SYSTEM FOR ELECTRONIC CAREGIVING

ABSTRACT

A conference system for electronic caregiving is described. A one-on-one audio/video-call system allows communication between an elderly or disabled user and caregiver using audio, video and/or data. The system includes two communication systems – one for the user and one for the caregiver. Each communication system includes a console coupled to a television. The console has a digital processor, storage, software, and connections to telephone equipment, channel tuner, a video camera, and steering for the video camera. A remote control issues commands to the console to initiate or accept calls to the other communication system. The phone line is used to carry the audio portion of the call while the network is used to carry any video and/or data portion of the call. In some embodiments, a passkey allows the caregiver's communication system to control the user's communication system without any interaction by the user. In other embodiments, more than one video camera is used for a communication system. A microphone can be coupled to the remote control to collect the audio channel for the call.